

Date: 10 November, 2011 8:39:09 AM AST

Subject: Re: Serious Questions

Dear Dr. Campbell:

I write to you once again with questions and concerns. In my sphere mail is answered - no matter how uncomfortable. I am a member of the class of 1985, a granddaughter of an honorary degree recipient (James A. Fraser 1961) and a member of the Board of Regents. A daughter of Alumni (Rosemary Stanley Fraser 1960 and S. Peter Fraser 1963) and the sister of alumni (Peter James Fraser, 1990 and Dr. Margaret Anne Fraser 1987.) I was born in Sackville and spent the first five years of my life there. I attended Music Camps all through the 1970's. I was a member of the Alumni Board, and have sent countless very fine students to Mount Allison. This very afternoon, while sitting in my studio, gazing at my parchment and my thank you plaque (coincidentally, or not, with a very fine engraving of the Memorial Library) a grade 12 student wandered in and started discussing university choice. The universities were about this week so it is a hot topic. They all tell me the Mount A "guy" is very good! A compliment to you and your establishment. This particular student is ideal Mount A material - the same type as countless others I have sent happily of the Mount A. I started to really put on the drive for Mount A and looked up and saw my plaque and became sad, upset, and angry. This student will not be coming your way. She is "Rhodes Scholar" material - she has it all and is VERY ambitious. So - I told her of the sad and miserable mess you find yourselves in and she agreed - not the place for her.

Mount Allison has always spoken in terms of "family". Most especially when sending out requests for cash, such as the ones flying around the mail this week - filling up the recycle bags to the brim. Families have disagreements but it is usual for all voices to be heard, listened to with respect and answered honestly and fairly. In this case answers are not forthcoming. You, yourself spoke to the gathered Alumni in Cape Breton last fall and told the assembly that the library had to go because of the 5,000,000. overrun. People were stunned but thought money would be raised to save the building - that would be logical after all - and went on with their lives. It would seem that this was not the case. The money was not the issue at all. Stubborn hearts were at work and seem to have prevailed. Stubborn hearts are at the root of most wars. The first and second world wars were certainly fuelled by stubborn hearts. How sad it is that a building built to honour those killed trying to break those stubborn hearts will now fall for the same reason.

The lack of transparency in this matter is abhorrent. The Globe and Mail article states that Jack Diamond offered you free services and that Joan Irving offered you the 5,000,000. dollars to fix the problem. All of this was dismissed without a whisper. No meetings, no discussion with the wider community, no gathering together of the "family" to debate this topic. You say this is opposed by a few malcontents - these are your words - yet the National newspaper saw fit to publish such an article based on the few stray naysayers. This seems quite unusual I think you might agree. The same article garnered many comments - most negative.

In my day Mount Allison honoured her past. Pine boughs were ceremoniously placed on the grave on Charles Frederick Allison each fall, Remembrance Day ceremonies were solemnly observed at the Memorial Library and the "elder statesmen" of the university were treated with great respect. The belligerent and rude treatment of such people as Donald Cameron is something I cannot recognize as the Mount Allison way. Cameron, the most stable force in the administration for generations has earned all of our respect. Even the respect of the current administration. This is not the way to build community and good will. The stubbornness of the hearts of the current stewards of the university have caused irreparable damage and no matter how grand and lovely you may all think this new building may be, the stain on the long history of the school will be there for ever.

May I respectfully suggest that you stop the current destruction and call a meeting of the entire community. There has got to be a better way. There are always options. Why is this the most logical place to put the new building? There is real estate mere feet from this site which has been vacant for years. There have been rumours and many discussions about the foundry property for at least twenty five years - yet it sits there - empty - an eyesore in fact. If a meeting is not called to answer all of the many questions then one is to assume that Mount Allison is no longer working as a "family" and has been completely sold out to big business and money. If this is the case then the relentless pleas for donations must cease. Let the corporations who are calling all the shots pay all the bills.

This whole mess has caused many people sleepless nights. It has made many people assess their feelings for their Alma Mater and I fear will make MTA the same as any other big business and really not worthy of too much worry. All Alumni are stewards of the university as members of a large family. Each member makes a contribution in the confidence that their voice will be heard. The Alumni have been lied to, deceived and maligned. This is not the way families treat one another.

This saddens and angers me, one lonely malcontent among MANY!

Good luck

Katherine Fraser